



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

Council's "Golden Shovel" Awards...

Fifteen County Residents Wield "Mean" Shovels to Keep "Old Man Winter" At Bay

Fifteen County residents who helped their neighbors deal with this past winter's snow and ice were honored today by the Montgomery County Council with the third annual "Sidewalks Are For Everyone (SAFE)/ Golden Shovel" Awards.

The winners were chosen from three dozen nominations sent in by County residents.

"This award is intended to recognize those individuals who have gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' in helping their neighbors to clear ice and snow from County sidewalks," said Councilmember Nancy Floreen, the originator of the idea and chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

"We all have a civic duty to pitch in and help. Our seniors, our schoolchildren, our disabled community, and those who walk to work or use mass transit depend on cleared sidewalks. It's a matter of convenience and public safety – and a critical piece for improving transportation in the County.

"Even in a mild winter such as the one we just had, there's going to be slipping and sliding. These residents represent the 'Golden Rule' in action. They went out, did the work, and didn't ask for anyone to pat them on the back."

Each of the winners was presented with a certificate and a "Golden Shovel" lapel pin.

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page two

In 2001, the County Council passed into law legislation to require County residents to clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall, with strong support from seniors, families with schoolchildren, and the disability community. Similar regulations had already been in effect for many years in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, as well as in Prince George's and Howard counties and in the District of Columbia.

The complete list of "Golden Shovel" awardees is:

- Robin Asselin of Silver Spring
- Steve Butler of Rockville
- Hap Butz of Boyds
- Matt Collins of Rockville
- Andrew Finn of Silver Spring
- Johnetta Mars Gibson of Montgomery Village
- Sean Heavey of Silver Spring
- Michael Huffman of Silver Spring
- John & Evelyn Jemionek of Silver Spring
- John Keiser of Silver Spring
- Selorm Kumah of Rockville
- Michael Linder of Silver Spring
- Elizabeth Scott of Montgomery Village
- William Toledo of Burtonsville

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